

FORT PIERCE NEWS

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CONFESSED MURDER

Aaron Williams Says He Killed Jim Patterson.

Details of the Crime as Related to News Man by Doomed Man in His Jail Cell.

Aaron Williams, who was convicted of the spring term of circuit court of St. Lucie county in the first degree and sentenced to hang for the killing of Jim Patterson at Vicksburg on December 18, 1908, has confessed that he did the deed.

Aaron Williams, whose real name is Aaron Bailey, is now in jail in Fort Pierce awaiting execution, which is set for Friday, July 9th, Governor Gilchrist having signed the death warrant and Sheriff Carlton is authorized to proceed with the preparations for the legal execution.

It will be remembered that just after the crime was committed The News published the story of it to the effect that Patterson had been assaulted and robbed of eighteen dollars. He was found side of the railroad track and died a few hours later. His dying statement that Aaron Williams did it caused the latter's arrest and conviction.

Since the date has been set for the execution, the doomed man has admitted that he committed the crime. Yesterday morning, through courtesy of Sheriff Carlton, The News man was allowed an interview with the prisoner and his story, told somewhat disconnectedly, is as follows:

"I and the other fellow (Patterson) had been working together on the work train and he and his brother were always mistreating me, taking my groceries and bullying me. One day at Eldred they picked a quarrel and both of them wanted to fight me, but I could not fight both of them. I got tired of their stealing my rations and bullying and that night when we started to walk down the track I took an iron bar from the car to beat him with. I hit him six or seven times on the head and left him on the track. I didn't intend to kill him, but was going to give him a good beating. The money I took is buried beside the railroad track above St. Lucie. I don't know how much money there was. I done it; that's all."

In answer to many questions it was learned that the condemned man is 23 years old, was born in Maysville, S. C., and his mother, Maria Bailey, lives there now. He admitted that Aaron Bailey was his real name but that he had given the name of Williams ever since he had been in Florida, which is since 1906. He was working for the P. E. C. railway on the work train and had been associated with Patterson for about two months. He has a sister at Delray, one on the West coast, and a brother in New York, all of whom are aware of his present condition.

Baily said that he had no further statement to make except that he "done it." He is a dark mulatto, about 5 feet 8 inches high and weighs about 180 pounds, well built and well proportioned. He displayed a little emotion and hesitated considerably when asked to repeat the circumstances of the crime, otherwise he appeared to have no regrets or excuses to offer.

Same Old Story.

Speaking of pineapples: have any of the pineapple growers done anything yet to get a higher tariff or better rates for transportation? If the pineapple growers don't do something surely the undertakers and shoemakers are not going to do it for them. Every man's business is his own look-out, and if he don't try to look after it himself, no one else feels like looking after it for him.

—St. Lucie County Tribune.

The pineapple growers of St. Lucie county have on many occasions attempted to do these things, in fact are fighting all the time and now trying harder than ever, but on every occasion have been met with opposition, discouragement and ridicule, such as the Tribune is now displaying.

Mr. E. A. Ireland, one of the prominent pineapple growers of the Jensen section, spent Monday in the city.

MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD

Special Meeting of Board of Education Held Saturday.

The School Board met in special session on Saturday, June 12th. Present, R. R. Gladwin, chairman; W. C. Braddock.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

The following business was transacted:

Inspectors and clerks for the election to be held June 19 were appointed, as follows:

District No. 1—Sebastian, G. W. Hall, T. B. Hicks, P. P. Lawson; B. F. Hardesty, clerk.

No. 2—Fort Pierce. W. B. Cross, H. E. Crooks, E. C. Summerlin; A. W. Y. Hogg, clerk.

No. 3—Ankona. D. P. Eldred, C. W. McMeekin, Edgar Lewis; Wm. Pomeroy, clerk.

No. 4—Jensen. M. M. Mitchell, Jas. Neal, Wm. Hogg; H. C. Stark, clerk.

No. 7—Wabasso. A. B. Michael, E. E. Smith, T. J. Cail; E. A. Holt, clerk.

No. 8—Quay. J. M. McCullers, Sr., W. R. Copeland, W. H. Wigfield; F. C. Poppell, clerk.

No. 9—Narrows. J. W. Cochran, J. H. Herndon, E. V. Walker; W. C. Farr, clerk.

No. 11—Vero. W. J. Bass, W. J. Grice, C. J. Reams; N. O. Peany, clerk.

There being no complaints, or alterations in the list of qualified electors as published, the list as printed stands approved.

The following accounts were ordered paid:

R. R. Gladwin, per diem 4 00

W. C. Braddock per diem and mil 9 40

There being no further business the board adjourned.

R. R. GLADWIN,
Attest:—K. M. TEDDER, Chairman.
Superintendent.

Who Killed the Shark?

A member of a fishing party which went to the inlet last week is very much wrought up over Supt. Jones' claim to being an expert shark fisherman, as detailed by him in an interview in The News last week.

"I caught that shark myself," she told The News Man "and I want you to put this in your paper and stop Mr. Jones' bragging; Mr. Jones was scared of that shark and never touched it until ten people told him it was dead."

The News Man saw the shark's jaws and backbone but will not undertake to say who killed it. We don't want our hair pulled.

Baseball Next Thursday.

The first game of baseball of the summer season in Fort Pierce will be played on the Carlton diamond next Thursday afternoon when the West Palm Beach team will cross bats with the Fort Pierce team. These clubs are old rivals and have scores from last summer to settle on the diamond, and our people can rest assured of a hotly contested game. It is also hoped that a large crowd will be out to encourage the home club, as well as encourage the game. Remember the motto "Boost Fort Pierce" and go out and root for Fort Pierce.

From the Pacific Coast.

Visalia, Cal., June 8, 1909.
Prop. News, Fort Pierce, Fla.:
Dear Sir:—Booster number to hand in due time, for which thanks, and will say that same is certainly a "hummer."

Am glad that Florida is waking up to its possibilities, and "good old" Fort Pierce and St. Lucie county in particular. Herewith also please find One (\$1.00) Dollar to pay one year's subscription to The News.

Yours, etc.,
THEODORE KRUSE.

Route 2, Box 57.

Mr. F. P. Kerger, of Carrollton, Ill., who is interested in pineapple culture and owns a valuable plantation at Eldred, is spending a few weeks there looking after the harvesting of his crop. Mr. Kerger is one of the pioneers in pineapple culture in this section, having bought land and planted pineapples when things looked blue to others just after the big freeze.

DEATH ANGEL'S VISIT

Miss Sybil Horton Passed Away Sunday Morning.

One of the Most Popular Young Ladies of Fort Pierce was Called to Her Rest.

Last Sunday morning the entire community was shocked and grieved by the announcement that one of the fairest of Indian River flowers had been plucked by the grim reaper and that the cold, dark stream of death had swallowed up one of the brightest of the maidens of Fort Pierce.

The sad news was telegraphed here from St. Augustine that Miss Sybil Horton had died in the hospital at that place early Sunday morning, and as the intelligence spread a gloom was cast over the entire city and many a home sorrowed as tears were freely shed. The announcement caused much surprise from the fact that very few realized that the young lady was dangerously ill and none had thought of the illness resulting fatally.

Deceased was ill only about a week, having been stricken with a fever, and was removed to a sanitarium at St. Augustine on Monday, June 7th, accompanied by her mother and aunt, who were with her to the end. Her father, Mr. C. M. Horton, left here Saturday night but before he arrived at her bedside the death angel had gathered the beloved daughter and borne her gently to another world.

Miss Sybil Horton was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Horton, of this city, and leaves a sister and two brothers. She was born in Melbourne, Fla. seventeen years ago and was just budding into beautiful womanhood. Tall and graceful and with a disposition beaming with lovely traits and a kind word for all she made lasting friends wherever she went and was a beloved leader among the younger social set in this community. Reared from early childhood in this city she had so endeared herself to all, and especially to the numerous girl friends of her age hereabouts, that each and all felt a distinctive loss at her demise and felt as though the loveliest and dearest bud had been plucked to adorn God's paradise in heaven.

The funeral services were held in St. Andrews church at 3:30 o'clock Monday afternoon conducted by Archdeacon Johnson, assisted by Rev. George Moore. The church was filled to overflowing with friends of the deceased and the family, many coming from neighboring towns up and down the river. The eloquent and touching words of Archdeacon Johnston as he pictured the beautiful life and character of this lovely young girl, pointed out her noble example and Christian fortitude as the fever was gradually shortening her stay on earth, was eagerly listened to by the tear bedimmed audience and was a eulogy long to be remembered.

Nothing so touches the sympathy of the human heart as an occasion like this and the church choir selections voiced the emotions of its hearers with music soft and low but well rendered.

At the conclusion of the church services the remains were followed to Fort Pierce cemetery by a large concourse and lovingly laid to rest amid a pyramid of flowers contributed by sorrowing and sad-hearted friends. The pallbearers, all young men, were: Messrs. Ed. Cook, Henry Thayer, Homer Gooking, Sam VanLandingham, Dozier Alderman and Dave Alexander.

The News but echoes the sentiments of every one in this community and for miles north and south of us in extending to the bereaved parents, brothers, sister and other relatives their heartfelt sympathy in their irreparable loss.

The entertainment committee of the Boosters' Club announces that the entertainment planned for next Wednesday night has been postponed indefinitely on account of the recent bereavement in our city. The date will be announced later.

Work on the foundation for the new courthouse is progressing finely and Superintendent Jones expects that part of the work to be completed this month.

THE STORY OF HELEN KELLER

Brings High Honors to a Young Girl In a North Georgia College.

In a small mining town situated on the top of the Blue Ridge mountains and twenty-five miles from the nearest railroad station lived a frail child possessed of large blue eyes and an unusual heavy and long growth of light-colored tresses. Her pretty face, amiable disposition and bright mind made her a favorite in the little town, especially among the studiously inclined, and she was always a welcome guest at the most cultured homes as well as at the cottage of the most humble miner. At a social gathering, nine years ago, this bright-minded child heard the story of Helen Keller, the girl who mastered the languages, music and science although deprived of the sense of sight, speech or sound, and it made a lasting impression on her young mind. She sought for and finally obtained the story in print, and many a sympathetic tear was shed as she read over and over the trials and grievances of the thrice-afflicted girl with the stout heart and determined will. Early impressions are the most lasting, it is said, and so it proved in this case, for as she grew older and her studies advanced it was a troublesome task to master the difficult propositions and required many hours of mental worry and loss of sleep. At times the thought would almost take possession of her that the task was too great and that she could not conquer, but on every such occasion the story of Helen Keller would spring up in her memory, renew her energy and urge her to greater efforts. Before her sophomore year had ended it was found that there was no study too deep for her to master and no proposition she could not solve. But while she was strong as a lion mentally she was weak physically and exhausted vitality must rest, so her ever-mindful parents insisted and finally persuaded her that it was necessary for her future welfare that she cease her studies for at least one session. Study and duty to her parents were the chief occupations of her mind and she acquiesced to their wishes. Returning to school at the next opening with renewed strength and vigor but with the same unswerving will her studies were mastered with an ease and rapidity that was a surprise to all and thus it continued, with but one more interruption, until the senior year was reached, which, to all thorough students, is the easiest of them all. During her school course she has been the winner of nine handsome gold medals—two music medals, three essay medals, one for excellence in English, one Latin medal, one for science and one for the highest general average, besides being honored with the presidency of the graduating class. With twenty-two others, ten of which were specials, who graduated from the North Georgia Agricultural College (a branch of the State University) located at Dahlonega, Ga., on June 2d, 1909, the only name other than those of young men was that of Miss Fannie McGuire, A. B., the youngest member of the class and a granddaughter of the first president of that institution of learning. Being the only young lady in the large class many honors and numbers of handsome presents of jewelry, books, etc., were bestowed by her parents, relatives and friends, but the present most highly appreciated was the crate of "Choice Pineapples" sent from Fort Pierce by the sincere friend who impressed her when a child with the story of Helen Keller.

It Is To Laugh.

It is ludicrous to read the articles published in regard to the pineapple shipments by the newspapers in the State whose controlling stock is owned by the Florida East Coast Railway. These papers state that everything this road does is solely for the benefit of growers of pineapples, and that the charges are not exorbitant and the service is the best that can possibly be given.—New York Produce News.

From pretty good authority it is announced that the work of excavating for the F. E. C. railway shops will begin about July 15th next, or as soon as the pineapple rush is over.

THE DISCRIMINATION

Cincinnati Man's View of the Florida Situation.

Cuban Pines Are Transported from Havana to Chicago in Seventy-five Hours.

That the effects of the discrimination against Florida pines is felt all over the country is attested by the following from the Cincinnati correspondent of the New York Packer:

The heavy movement of pineapples through this gateway to various northern and western markets continued all week. The week eclipsed all previous records for activity in the marketing of receipts. The big distributors who are active in the deal kept the wires warm in disposing of arrivals. Monday over 75 cars of Florida and Cuban stock came in over the two big southern trunk lines terminating here and the daily receipts by special trains continued proportionately heavy.

The management of the branch offices here of Crutchfield & Woolfolk, New York, Chicago and Pittsburg, and Chase & Co., Jacksonville, were kept on the jump inspecting and diverting cars to large and small markets all over the country.

The foreign stock is coming routed through Knights Key and Havana and many of the cars passing through are scheduled to reach Chicago 75 hours out, including the water haul.

The Florida movement was equally as heavy and many cars showed the effect of delay en route. They were said to have been sidetracked further down the line to give the Cuban product the right of way on the fast trains which even took precedent over passenger trains.

Notwithstanding the quick transportation the railroads are exerting themselves to give the Cuban stock, a number of cars consigned to this and other Ohio markets arrived in bad condition. One of the two receivers made strenuous efforts to refuse shipments on account of the deteriorated condition of the fruit, which would not bring freight charges, but found that owing to United States custom house regulations they were compelled to pay freight bills on duty.

There is considerable complaint among the operators in Florida pines regarding the discrimination the transportation companies are making against the fruit from that state. Freight charges for the imported goods, notwithstanding a longer haul, are less than one-half the rate on the Florida product. The fast train service and low freight tariff have worked a hardship to a certain extent on those who are in the Florida deal.

Charles Oyler, manager for G. E. Markley & Co. here, who is active in the Florida deal, having the marketing of large crops in Florida, said: "The dealers who are in the pineapple deal certainly feel the effects of the rank discrimination the railroads are making against Florida pines this season, both on the low freight rates and fast train service. The Cuban fruit is being brought to the Ohio river from Havana, including steamship transportation, for 32 cents per crate on the fast long haul, special freight trains now being operated in this country. Just think of it, 75 hours or a little over three days from Havana, Cuba, to Chicago; that certainly is 20th century freight service. The cars of Florida pines are shoved in on sidings to let Cuban pineapple specials whiz by. The worst of it is, we are compelled to pay over twice the freight charges for slow service. Of course, a comparatively few cars of the Florida fruit get tangled up in the railroad yards at points south and are hooked on to specials which arrive on the fast schedules. Some action should be taken to lower freight rates on Florida stock. The Interstate Commerce Commission's attention ought to be called to this injustice."

Owing to the large receipts of both Florida and Cuban stock practically all the markets in the Ohio river valley were over supplied this week. How-

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